

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 042279

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ORIGIN SS-15

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 042279

TOSEC 290

FOLLOWING REPEAT ROME 2957 SENT ACTION SECSTATE, AMMAN INFO
ANKARA, ATHENS, BONN, BRUSSELS, COPENHAGEN, THE HAGUE,
LISBON, LONDON, LUXEMBOURG, OSLO, OTTAWA, PARIS, REYKJAVIK,
NATO AND DIA MAR. 2--REPEATED SECSTATE ACTION RIYADH, JAKARTA
MAR. 2,

QUOTE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN GOVERNMENT RESIGNS

AMMAN FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY; DIA FOR A2 AND DI5

1. IN 45-MINUTE MID-DAY SESSION MARCH 2, COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
AGREED TO SUBMIT THEIR RESIGNATIONS. THEY ALSO AGREED TO PROPOSE TO
PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC THAT DIVORCE REFERENDUM BE SET FOR MAY 12.
RUMOR IMMEDIATELY LEFT FOR QUIRANALE PALACE TO FORMALLY ADVISE
PRESIDENT LEONE OF THESE TWO ACTIONS. PRIOR TO SESSION, RUMOR
CONSULTED PRIVATELY WITH COMMUNIST PARTY SECRETARY BERLINGUER AND
LIBERAL PARTY PRESIDENT MALAGODI, AND ALSO TALKED ON PHONE WITH
MSI PARTY SECRETARY ALMIRANTE. PRESUMABLY THESE DISCUSSIONS WERE
TO ADVISE THEM OF PLANNED DATE OF REFERENDUM.

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PAGE 02 STATE 042279

2. PLI SOURCE CLOSE TO MALAGODI TELLS US THAT PRESIDENT LEONE

WILL HOLD TRADITIONAL CONSULTATIONS WITH FORMER PRESIDENTS
AND PRIME MINISTERS ON MONDAY, MARCH 4 AND WILL FINISH INITIAL
CONSULTATIONS WITH POLITICAL LEADERS ON TUESDAY.
SOURCE PREDICTED THAT
LEONE, AFTER THESE CONSULTATIONS, WILL ASK RUMOR TO ATTEMPT TO
FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT. VOLPE

UNQUOTE CASEY

UNQUOTE DONALDSON

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